

## 2Corinthians – Week 15

### I. Quiz on Chapter 4

### II. Review: 1Cor. 4:16-18

- A. The “*outer self*” (i.e., the jars of clay) was wasting away!
  - i. It was part of this physical world and it was subject to Christian afflictions and persecutions, which Paul called “*the death of Jesus*” in verse 10.
- B. However, the “*inner self*” is moving in the opposite direction!
  - i. It is looking forward to the age to come, which its resurrected body!
- C. Paul’s afflictions -- although brutal at times -- when compared to what waits in glory, was light and momentary!
- D. It is human nature to look at what is seen:
  - i. Paul commands the Church not look to the things that are seen (the trials), but instead, look to the things that are unseen!
    - 1. By doing so, you will see your afflictions as light and temporary!
    - 2. Also, you will not lose heart as you set your hope on the resurrection!

### III. Continuation: An Eternal Heavenly Home

- A. It is good to remember that chapter divisions were placed by men.
  - i. It is often assumed that a new chapter means a new topic.
  - ii. But here, Paul is continuing on the same thought from the previous chapter:
    - 1. Paul has been speaking of his present sufferings and the future glory that waits.
    - 2. Now, he is going to expound on the subject of death and the eternal...
- B. In chapter 5, Paul describes death and resurrection in terms of:
  - i. Tent destroyed                      A house not made with hands
  - ii. Unclothed                              Clothed
  - iii. Away from home                      Home with the Lord
- C. 2Cor. 5:1 (ESV), “*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*”
  - i. From the phrase, “*for we know,*” Paul is addressing he already taught the Corinthians.
    - 1. The doctrine of the resurrection is part of the gospel (cf. 1Cor. 15:1-4)!
  - ii. In chapter 4, Paul called the body a jar of clay, now he calls it a tent (or tabernacle-KJV).
    - 1. A tent is, of course, is a temporary dwelling place for travelers and those in foreign lands.
    - 2. Death is when the tent is dismantled and the soul is ready to move into its final home: a building not made by men, but by God!
      - a. The building made by God is referring to the believers’ future, glorified body that will never be subject to death, decay or disease (cf. 1Cor. 15:42-44, 51-54)!
  - iii. When will the soul move into this eternal building?
    - 1. According to 1Corinthians 15:52, it will happen at the last trumpet!
      - a. The last trumpet signifies the coming of Christ!
        - i. 1Thess. 4:16-18 describes the dead in Christ rising to meet the Lord in the air, along with those who are still alive!
        - ii. At this point, the soul will be clothed with a new body!

2. So what happens to the soul between the period of death and the resurrection?
    - a. The righteous souls wait in the upper regions of Hades, in Paradise, as in the case of the thief on the cross (Lk. 23:43).
    - b. Here, they are disembodied, that is, unclothed, waiting for their new, glorified bodies!
    - c. At the resurrection, the souls are united to their new bodies, and thus will be with the Lord forever in the heavens!
    - d. Some believe that the dead in Christ already have a new body.
      - i. Those who hold to this view look upon the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man in Luke 16:19-31 as fictional!
      - ii. However, Jesus mentions real people in this story: Abraham and Moses and should not be treated as a fictional story!
      - iii. Beside, saying the dead in Christ have their new bodies is akin to saying that the resurrection had already taken place!
        1. According to 1Cor. 15:42-54 and 1Thess. 4:13-18, we will receive new bodies at the resurrection!
- D. 2Cor. 5:2-4 (ESV), *“For in this tent we groan, longing to put on (or clothed upon with-KJV) our heavenly dwelling,<sup>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.<sup>4</sup> For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.”*
- i. The sense is that our present bodies are subjected to so many trials and afflictions, making us to earnestly desire to be clothed with our glorified bodies!
  - ii. Notice how Paul changes the metaphor from “tent” to “clothing”
    1. Putting on the new body is synonymous to putting on clothes so that we will not be found naked!
    2. This metaphor is also found in 1Cor. 15:53, where the Greek word “enduo”, signifies to be clothed, that is, putting on the incorruptible body.
  - iii. Some say that the phrase *“not be found naked”* refers to judgment, but the immediate context does not seem to point to judgment but to the taking off of the old and putting on of the new, that is, from tent to building- from physical body to glorified body!
- E. 2Cor. 5:5 (ESV), *“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”*
- i. It is God’s desire and purpose for us to be with Him!
  - ii. For this very reason the gospel much be preached and believed!
    1. When a soul believes and obeys the gospel, the Holy Spirit makes His home in them (cf. Acts 2:38; 5:32).
    2. Having the Holy Spirit guarantees the believer a glorified body that will be with the Lord forever!